

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 271915Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1767

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USUN NEW YORK 171

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1221

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR SS MR

SUBJECT: CARRERO BLANCO ASSASSINATION WORRIES MAURITANIAN
LEADERSHIP RE FUTURE GOS SAHARAN POLICY

SUMMARY. COMMENTS BY GIRM PRESIDENT AND FONMIN IN WAKE
CARRERO BLANCO ASSASSINATION CONFIRM MAURITANIAN SATISFAC-
TION TO DATE WITH SPAIN'S HANDLING OF SAHARAN POLICY
AND CONCERN LEST IT CHANGE UNDER NEW PRIMIN.

1. SPANISH CHARGE ADVISES THAT LAST WEEK HE RECEIVED
AT EMBASSY PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH WHO, ACCOMPANIED BY
FONMIN MOUKNASS, CAME TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES OVER ASSASSI-
NATION OF SPANISH PRIMIN. ACCORDING CHARGE, TENOR OF
CONVERSATION AND QUESTIONS MAURITANIANS POSED RE LIKELY
SUCCESSOR TO CARRERO BLANCO INDICATED THEIR CONSIDERABLE
CONCERN OVER FUTURE COURSE SPANISH POLICY IN SAHARA.
CONVERSELY, CONVERSATION CONFIRMED TO CHARGE ACCURACY OF
GOS ANALYSIS THAT MAURITANIANS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY PLEASED
WITL MADRID'S HANJLING OF SAHARAN QUESTION TO DATE.

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2. CHARGE BELIEVES GIRM LEADERSHIP RECOGNIZES AND WELCOMES

FACT THAT LATE PRIMIN'S STRONG LEADERSHIP HAD SUCCEEDED
IN "COOLING" SAHARAN PROBLEM BOTH INTERNATIONALLY AND IN
THE DOMESTIC SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION.

3. COMMENT. OULD DADDAH'S PERSONAL VISIT TO EMBASSY WAS
UNUSUAL PROTOCOL GESTURE; GIRM RADIO HAD EARLIER BROADCAST
TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S CONDOLENCE TELEGRAM TO FRANCO. WE
CONCUR WITH CHARGE'S INTERPRETATION THAT VISIT SIGNALLED
IMPORTANCE PRESIDENT ATTACHES TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH SPAIN
AS WELL AS DEGREE OF THE CONCERN OULD DADDAH FEELS LEST CARRERO
BLANCO'S DISAPPEARANCE PRESAGE CHANGE IN MADRID'S SAHARAN
POLICY.
MURPHY

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